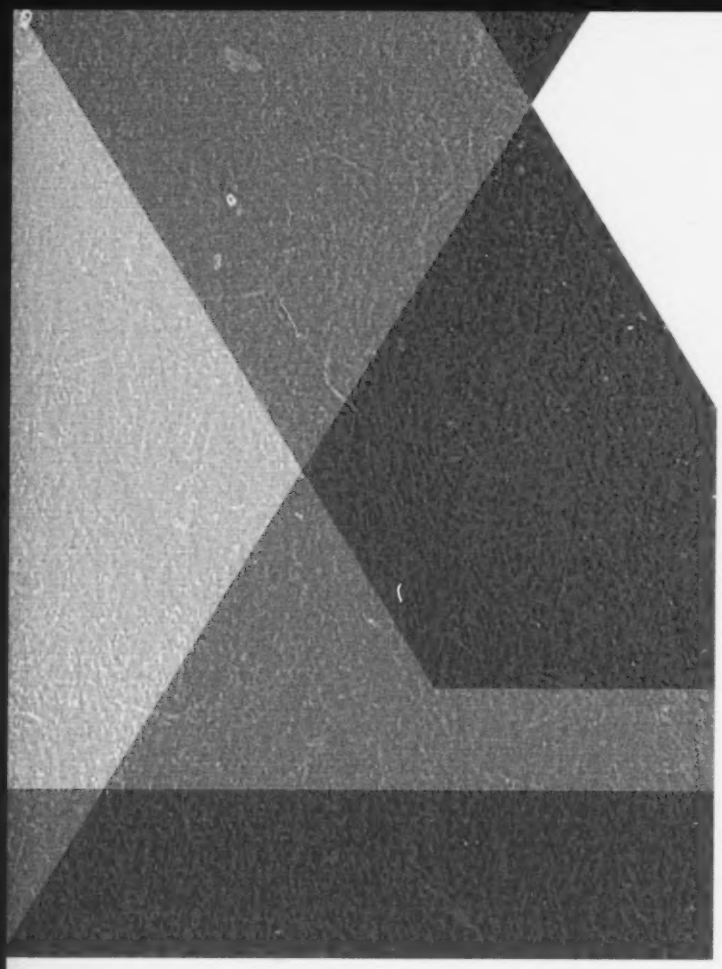

Business Plan 2018–19

Department of Justice

NOVA SCOTIA

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Budget 2018–19: Business Plan
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Message from the Minister

Nova Scotians rely on a fair, open, accessible and transparent justice system. It is a significant responsibility.

Our job is to keep people safe and to make sure that our courts and legal system run smoothly. In addition, we must actively consider prevention, over-representation and innovation. We cannot do so alone. We must work across government and collaboratively with others concerned about access to justice. We must have accountability measures to keep us on track and inherently transparent with the people we serve.

Our department has a wide mandate that touches on so many aspects of Nova Scotia life and the freedoms we enjoy. It is so big that it is sometimes difficult to grasp the wider picture and where each of us fit in it.

That's why we've prepared this plan.

It shows what we are working on together and why. It connects our big, long-term goals to things we do individually every day. This helps us account to the public for the trust they place in us and it also helps each of us understand the importance of the work we do every day. For example, escorting prisoners to court, enforcing child support orders, providing legal support to other departments, keeping those in our custody safe or supporting victims of crime through a traumatic experience.

The plan starts with our vision, which is a justice system centered on people, and a province that is the safest in the country.

Our strategic goals are three: better access to justice for those who struggle most; a culture of innovation so that our services we provide are as effective as possible; and doing our part to support public safety, well-being and economic stability of Nova Scotians. Much of our innovations are focused on prevention, such as the Opioid framework and the Independent Free Legal Advice program launched this past year.

We are also focused on increasing diversity in the justice system. We are working on our first Aboriginal Justice Strategy and initiatives to support African Nova Scotians. Prioritizing diversity makes us more responsive to Nova Scotians we are here to serve.

There's a lot to accomplish this year. But I am confident that we can deliver on every one of our goals. I want to touch on a few. We will continue to ensure the safety of Nova Scotians as we roll out the new cyber protection legislation; we will continue to reduce delays in the justice system; we will increase response to families and children who rely on court-ordered support payments and we will expand the use of restorative justice to reduce interaction with the traditional justice system while being more responsive to the needs of victims. We have a responsibility to protect offenders and accused people in our custody. We must ensure their welfare is a priority while doing what we can to successfully reintegrate them back into society

We will also play a lead role in government's work in making Nova Scotia accessible by 2030 and we will work with other government departments and stakeholders to lead the province's efforts to ensure we are ready for the legalization of cannabis this summer.

I hope you will take a few moments to read the 2018-19 plan and discuss it with your colleagues.

Nova Scotians can be extremely proud of the work the Justice team does on their behalf. You and your colleagues accomplish great things every day to keep our friends and neighbours safe and secure.

Original signed by

Mark Furey
Attorney General and Minister of Justice

Mandate

"The Department of Justice is responsible for the administration of justice and for promoting access to justice and the safety and security of Nova Scotians through justice-related programs, services and initiatives."

To accomplish its mandate, the Department provides services through five core business areas:

- Public Safety and Security;
- Court Services;
- Correctional Services;
- Accessibility Directorate; and,
- Legal Services to Government.

Minister's Mandate Letter: September 21, 2017

- Prevention as a mechanism to support the economic and social well-being of our province;
- Restorative justice, based on customary Aboriginal law, to reduce future contact with the justice system and recidivism and increase victim satisfaction;
- Increasing responsiveness to Nova Scotian families and children for maintenance enforcement;
- Continuing cyber protection actions to ensure the safety of Nova Scotians;
- Continuing activities to reduce delays in the justice system;
- Playing a leadership role in the government's work on accessibility; and,
- Leading Nova Scotia initiatives to ensure our province is ready to accommodate the federal policy to legalize cannabis when it comes into effect.

The Minister's Mandate Letter also outlined three platform commitments assigned to the Department of Justice. They are:

- Taking immediate action to improve maintenance enforcement services;
- Working with the Department of Community Services to create a continuum of programs to address domestic violence; and,
- Expanding the Domestic Violence Court to Halifax and make permanent the court in Sydney.

Core Responsibilities/Services

The Department of Justice has core responsibilities and provides services as outlined below:

- Administration of Courts and administrative support to the judiciary;
- Administration of Victim Services Program;
- Administration of Sheriff Services Program;
- Administration of Maintenance Enforcement Program;
- Provision of Family Law Services;
- Legislative oversight for policing, private security, firearms control;
- Oversight of the Restorative Justice Program delivered by Community agencies;
- The administration and operation of community and custody-based programs and services for adult offenders and young persons;
- Delivery of programs and services that support public safety and well-being including offender rehabilitation and reintegration, and crime prevention initiatives;
- Provision of legal advice to government and litigation for or against the Crown; and,
- Minister is responsible for the Office of the Public Trustee, the Medical Examiner Service and the Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT).

Department of Justice Goals

- Department of Justice supports access to justice especially for those who struggle most;
- Department of Justice has a culture of innovation in effective and efficient services; and,
- Department of Justice supports public safety, well-being and economic stability of Nova Scotians.

Minister's Mandate Letter and Platform Commitments Link to Initiatives

The Department of Justice is focused on achieving results in the areas identified in the Minister's Mandate Letter from the Premier. The areas outlined in the Letter will serve as the Department's priorities for 2018-2019. The areas are as follows:

- Preventative justice as a mechanism to support the economic and social well-being of our province.

  Actions:

  - Participation of all divisions in competency training and expansion of service delivery programs to address the over-representation of both Aboriginals and African Nova Scotians in the Justice system.
  - Develop a comprehensive response to opioid misuse in partnership with Department of Health and Wellness.
  - In collaboration with the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, Department of Natural Resources and communities, expand the geographical scope of the 2015 land title clarification pilot to assist residents in North Preston, East Preston, Cherrybrook, Lincolnville and Sunnyville.
  - Determine the future funding and delivery models of the Additional Officer Program.
  - Create an Aboriginal Liaison Officer to support reintegration and to support initiatives to reduce the overrepresentation of the Aboriginal offender population in custody at Nova Scotia's correctional facilities.
  - Partner with Nova Scotia Community College to develop an educational program for adults in custody to remove barriers to education as they transition from custody to community.
  - Reduce the introduction of contraband and increase capacity to control contraband through the introduction of body scanners and the expansion of direct supervision for persons in custody.
  - Public Safety will work with police to audit their response to sexual assault investigations.
  - Collaborate with SchoolsPlus and the RCMP to support the use of HUBs in the province. The HUB approach is a preventative care model, which gets services to youth in a timely and collaborative manner.
  - As the law firm of government, the Legal Services Division will employ innovation and increased accountability in its efficient and effective delivery of legal services.
  - Through partnership with the Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network, Mi'kmaq leadership and community, develop an Aboriginal Justice Strategy for Nova Scotia with the long-term goal of reducing the overrepresentation of indigenous adults in custody and supporting those that are.
  - Conduct an evaluation of the Independent Legal Advice Program, which is offered to victims of sexual assault.

Performance Measures:

- Increased awareness and knowledge resulting from cultural competency training for Department of Justice staff.
- Number of Naloxone kits provided to Police/Sheriffs/Correctional Services, funded by the Department of Justice.
- Number of Naloxone kits provided to offenders upon release.
- Number of fentanyl training workshops delivered to law enforcement.
- Number of clarified land titles.
- Number of persons in custody and under community supervision that are age 18+ participating in educational programming.
- Number of adults and young people in custody and under community supervision who achieve their GED certification.
- Number of Nova Scotia Community College courses completed by persons in custody and under community supervision (aged 18+).
- Maintaining the high proportion of clients very satisfied with the Legal Services Division's services.
- Increase the use of tools and resources to deliver legal services more efficiently.
- Number of officers who have received trauma informed training on the sexual assault investigation response.
- Number of officers trained on sexual assault investigation.
- Number of sexual assault investigation audits.
- Number of HUBs in the Province and review of effectiveness.
- Percentage of Indigenous family members who found the Family Information Liaison Unit service helpful.

- Restorative justice, based on customary Aboriginal law, to reduce future contact with the justice system and recidivism and increase victim satisfaction.

  Actions:

  - Increase the usage of the Restorative Justice Program as an option for adults in conflict with the law.
  - Enhance and streamline data collection to provide more relevant data on restorative justice to government and community justice agencies.
  - Working with Office of Aboriginal Affairs and Status of Women; take a family first approach to supporting the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Along with other government departments, work with the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children Restorative Inquiry.
  - Work with Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network, judiciary, community justice societies, Crown, Legal Aid, police and academic community to support restorative justice. Work nationally with federal, provincial and territorial partners to accelerate the use of restorative justice in the criminal justice system.

Performance Measures:

- Number of people participating in Restorative Justice.
- Enhanced policies and practices to support delivery of Restorative Justice.
- Effective representation for the Province at all stages of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, including participation in Federal/Provincial/Territorial working groups and representation at expert hearings, community hearings and institutional hearings.

- Increased responsiveness to Nova Scotian families and children for maintenance enforcement. Take immediate action to improve maintenance enforcement services.

Actions:

- Reinstate garnishments more quickly when the payor stops voluntarily making payments.
- Use the recent amendments to the *Maintenance Enforcement Act* to increase specific enforcement actions (e.g. motor vehicle suspensions, federal license denials, etc.).
- Locate, and confirm employment, of payors, using investigative services in Public Safety.

Performance Measures:

- Percentage of enforceable Maintenance Enforcement Program cases where arrears have been reduced.
- Percentage of Maintenance Enforcement Program cases in full compliance with no arrears.

- Continue cyber protection actions to ensure the safety of Nova Scotians.

Actions:

- Realign CyberSCAN with the implementation of the new Intimate Images and Cyber Protection legislation and corresponding regulations.
- Develop procedures and forms to ensure complainants can straightforwardly access the justice system.
- Ensure a citizen-centric process is in place so complainants can easily navigate the justice system.

Performance Measures:

- Number of complaints resolved by CyberSCAN through informal measures.

- Continue activities to reduce delays in the justice system.

  Actions:

  - Work with Justice stakeholders to ensure that cases are heard within the timelines set by the Supreme Court of Canada in Jordan (within 18 months in the Provincial Court and 30 months in the Supreme Court).
  - Monitor and share data with justice stakeholders on cases which are within and exceeding the thresholds set by the Supreme Court of Canada.
  - Increase use of Restorative Justice.
  - Facilitate the work of justice stakeholders to ensure action is being taken throughout the criminal justice system to address delay, including an examination of the Province's remand population.
  - Develop a plan to reduce the remand population in provincial jails.

  Performance Measures:

  - Decreased number of cases exceeding the Jordan thresholds.

- Play a leadership role in the government's work on accessibility.

  Actions:

  - Development of the first Government of Nova Scotia multi-year Accessibility Plan.
  - Development and public release of Access by Design 2030 – the strategy and implementation plan for how Nova Scotia will be accessible by 2030. This will include prioritization of areas for standards development.
  - Work with municipalities and universities to develop accessibility planning frameworks and implementation processes.
  - Initiate standards development processes and develop initial accessibility standards.
  - Continue work to develop and implement awareness programs around the *Accessibility Act* and accessibility and disability issues.

  Performance Measures:

  - Number of education and awareness sessions delivered to businesses and associates related to the *Accessibility Act*.
  - Access by Design 2030 filed with legislature in fall 2018 and made publicly available.

- Lead Nova Scotia initiatives to ensure our province is ready to accommodate the federal policy to legalize cannabis when it comes into effect.

  Actions:

  - Implement enabling legislation for the province.
  - Implement provincial initiatives to accommodate the federal policy to legalize cannabis. Department of Justice is the lead on this project, working horizontally with other government departments.

- Work collaboratively with our partners and stakeholders, to effectively address issues that arise from legalizing cannabis.

Performance Measures:

- Number of Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) trained officers.
- Number of Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) trained officers.
- Legislation and regulations are enacted.

- Work with the Department of Community Services to create a continuum of programs to address domestic violence.

Actions:

- Work with the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women and community-based partners to develop culturally rooted programming for survivors of domestic violence and participants in the Domestic Violence Court from traditionally marginalized groups such as urban Indigenous women, African Nova Scotian women and members of the LGBTQ2S+ community.
- Reduce delay in cases related to Children in Care.

Performance Measures:

- Services are effectively delivered to participants of the Domestic Violence Courts.
- Partnerships are set up to offer services to women.

Departmental Expenses Summary
($ thousands)

Programs and Services	2017-2018 Estimate	2017-2018 Forecast	2018-2019 Estimate
Administration	21,668	21,424	23,142
Nova Scotia Legal Aid	25,456	25,711	26,800
Court Services	72,982	72,260	75,090
Correctional Services	71,550	72,262	73,530
Public Trustee	2,557	2,469	2,649
Nova Scotia Medical Examiner Service	4,063	4,603	4,896
Public Safety and Security	140,940	140,845	146,663
Serious Incident Response Team	599	618	607
Accessibility Directorate	896	519	1,204
Total - Departmental Expenses	340,711	340,711	354,581
Ordinary Recoveries	118,913	119,474	121,851
Funded Staff (# of FTEs)			
Department Funded Staff	1630.2	1594.2	1646.8

Note:
For Ordinary Revenues, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 2
For TCA Purchase Requirements, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 1